

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

[0019] An extruder includes a barrel having at least one axial bore extending to a downstream end of the barrel, a cutting plate of a granulating unit, received against a contact surface at the downstream end, and a plurality of heating elements in the barrel in the immediate vicinity of the contact surface. The heating elements are preferably heating cartridges which are received in two pairs of parallel bores at right angles to each other, thereby forming a square in a plane transverse to the axial bore.